

Scottish Vaccination and Immunisation Programme

Shingles Vaccination Programme

Phased Approach: Lines to support eligibility enquiries

Eligibility

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) recommended expanding the age cohorts for the shingles vaccination programme to protect individuals at an earlier age.

To deliver the programme effectively, NHS Scotland will deliver the vaccination programme on a phased basis over 10 years.

From 1st September 2023 the following groups will become eligible for a free Shingles vaccination in Scotland:

- People aged 50 or over, about to start immunosuppressive therapy.
- People aged 50 or over, with a severely weakened immune system.
- People aged 71 - 79 who have not previously been vaccinated.
- People aged 18 or over who have received a stem cell transplant.
- People aged 18 or over who have had CAR-T therapy.
- People who were aged 65 or 70 on 1st September.

If you're unsure if you're eligible, you can use the [age eligibility calculator](https://www.nhsinform.scot/shingles) on www.nhsinform.scot/shingles to confirm.

In time, the offer will expand to those turning both 60 and 65 years old. By 2033, the vaccine will be routinely offered to everyone aged 60 and over.

If you are currently aged 66 to 69 years, you won't be eligible for the vaccine until you turn 70.

People aged 66 - 69 on 1st September 2023 will become eligible for vaccination from 1st September after their 70th birthday.

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Appointments – commencement of offer

NHS Health Boards are responsible for delivering vaccination programmes in Scotland. Local Health Boards will invite eligible individuals in their area forward for their appointments. The Shingles vaccine can be offered all year round; most Health Boards will invite those who are eligible **from January 2024**.

Rationale

It is recognised that some people may be disappointed that they are not yet included in the age group to be offered a shingles vaccine this year.

When any vaccination programme is introduced or extended, recommendations are made about who will be offered the vaccine and when they will be invited to come forward. These decisions are based on a combination of factors including the risk of the disease and the effectiveness of the vaccine in different age groups.

This phased approach is based on the advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and to ensure that NHS Scotland can deliver the programme effectively alongside other immunisation programmes.

Please wait to be contacted.

For information on the shingles vaccine visit www.nhsinform.scot/shingles